

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 072353 TOSEC 030227
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GHAMILTON:LAR
APPROVED BY AF:DBBOL"N
AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
D:DLAMB (SUBS)
S/S:AWOTTO

-----020334Z 023460 /62

O 020309Z APR 77 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 072353 TOSEC 030227

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ,FOR, CG, BE, EFIN, PINS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH VAN ELSLANDE: POINTS OF
INTEREST ON ZAIRE

REF: SECTO 3081

1. FOLLOWING CHECKLIST HAS BEEN PREPARED IN ANTICIPATION
OF THE SECRETARY'S MEETING APRIL 2 WITH BELGIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE. POINTS CONTAINED IN CHECKLIST
COVER EVENTS IN ZAIRE UP TO APRIL 1.

2. BEGIN TEXT: BACKGROUND
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-- GOVERNMENT FORCES HOLD THE ROAD 60 MILES WEST OF KOLWEZI,
BUT THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. RECENT CHANGES
IN THE ZAIRIAN ARMY'S (FAZ) LEADERSHIP HAVE SLIGHTLY IM-
PROVED THE ARMY'S ABILITY TO OPERATE BUT THE EFFECT IS
LIKELY TO REMAIN MARGINAL.

-- THE FALL OF KOLWEZI WOULD HAVE A DEVASTATING POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MOBUTU.

-- THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REACTED TO INCREASING ANTI-MOBUTU ACTIVITY WITH ARRESTS.

-- CALLS FOR MOBUTU TO RELINQUISH DIRECT POWER HAVE BEEN RELAYED TO US EVEN FROM THE ELITE GROUP WHICH ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO SUPPORTED HIS CONTINUED RULE.

-- CENSORSHIP HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON THE FOREIGN PRESS OPERATING IN ZAIRE.

-- ZAIRIANS FEEL NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT GOING WELL; WE ARE MORE SCEPTICAL GIVEN THE INVADERS' CONTINUED SUCCESS.

-- THE FRENCH HAVE SENT 12 MILITARY ADVISORS TO KINSHASA, HAVE REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO RECRUIT 300 MERCENARIES AND SEND HELICOPTERS, PROVIDED THEY HAVE U.S. AND BELGIAN SUPPORT.

-- THE BELGIANS HAVE PROVIDED MILITARY TACTICAL AND LOGISTICAL ADVICE TO THE FAZ.

-- THE BELGIANS HAVE ALSO PROVIDED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE.

-- THE U.S. HAS PROVIDED TWO AIRPLANE LOADS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT (OF A NON-LETHAL NATURE) TO KINSHASA. TOTAL VALUE: 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS APPROXIMATELY.

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-- WE HAVE NOT ACTED UPON ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR AMMUNITION AND WEAPONS, BUT WE ARE CONSIDERING EXTENDING 1 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS CREDITS FOR ZAIRE'S MILITARY FUEL IMPORTS, AND SOME 500,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES OF RADIOS, BATTERIES AND ASSORTED SPARE PARTS.

-- CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO ZAIRE'S PLIGHT RANGES FROM CAUTION TO OPPOSITION.

-- ZAIRIAN DISSIDENTS BASED IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE CLAIM TO HAVE UNITED POLITICALLY AND TO SUPPORT THE INVASION.

3. SELECTED ISSUES/QUESTIONS FOR THE BELGIANS

A. THE MILITARY SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE AND THE INVADING FORCES ARE THREATENING KOLWEZI.

QUESTIONS:

(1) WHAT IS THE BELGIAN VIEW OF THE AIMS OF THE INVADING FORCES?

(2) WOULD THE MILITARY BENEFITS OF AN INFUSION OF EUROPEAN MERCENARIES OUTWEIGH THE INTERNATIONAL COSTS?

(3) COULD IMPROVED FAZ RESISTANCE CAUSE A MILITARY DEAD-LOCK WHICH WOULD INCREASE PRESSURE FOR A POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THE INVADERS AND THE MOBUTU REGIME?

B. THERE IS SERIOUS CONCERN THAT MOBUTU'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED, REGARDLESS OF MILITARY SITUATION, DUE TO ZAIRE'S COMPOUNDING PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MISMANAGEMENT UNDER THE PRESENT REGIME'S LEADERSHIP.

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QUESTION:

(1) WHAT IS CURRENT BELGIAN VIEW OF MOBUTU'S ABILITY TO SURVIVE?

(2) WHAT ZAIRIANS, EITHER AMONG DISSIDENTS OR WITHIN ZAIRE, SEEM LIKELY CANDIDATES TO PARTICIPATE OR LEAD ANY ANTI-MOBUTU GOVERNMENT?

C. CONTINUED SUCCESS BY INVADING FORCES COULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE BELGIAN POPULATION (3,000 KOLWEZI) REMAINING IN AREA HELD BY INVADERS. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT SOCIETE GENERALE, BELGIUM'S LARGEST CORPORATION WITH EXTENSIVE MINERAL INTERESTS AND PARTIAL GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP, IS "READY TO DEAL" WITH INVADERS. THIS POTENTIAL LOBBY COULD PUT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON BELGIANS TO TREAT WITH INVADING FORCES.

QUESTIONS:

(1) IS BELGIUM MAKING EVACUATION PLANS FOR ITS CITIZENS IN SHABA?

(2) HOW DOES BELGIUM SEE PROSPECTS THAT INVADERS WILL TRY TO SET UP SEPERATE SHABA STATE?

(3) IF THEY DO, WHAT WOULD BE REACTION ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA? WHAT WOULD BE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THIS REACTION?

(4) WHAT WOULD BE BELGIUM'S POSTURE IF SEPERATE STATE WERE ANNOUNCED?

D. IF KOLWEZI FALLS TO HOSTILE FORCES, THE GOVERNMENT OF
ZAIRE'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE (COPPER) REVENUES WILL BE SHARPLY
REDUCED, CALLING INTO QUESTION GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PRO-
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QUESTIONS:

(1) IS BELGIUM PLANNING ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRES
BEYOND WHAT WAS PREVIOUSLY IN PIPELINE?

(2) WOULD BELGIUM CONSIDER DOING SO IF KOLWEZI SLIPPED
FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S GRASP?

(3) SHOULD NOT THE PARIS CLUB DEBT RENEGOTIATIONS AND
IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETINGS BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE
SITUATION STABILIZES? EHD TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 072353
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TO WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 072353

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING EL SENT ACTION USDEL SECRETARY INFO PARIS, BRUSSELS,
KINSHASA FROM STATE APRIL 02:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 072353 TOSEC 030227

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SITUATION STABILIZES? EHD TEXT. CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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